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§ 25. **The Herbaria and Botanical Libraries of the United States,**
 IV.—THE MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY. I. *The Botanical Library*.—If the value of a Library depends more upon the character than the number of the volumes which it contains, and upon its adaptability to the purposes for which it was designed, then the library of the *Massachusetts Horticultural Society* is one of the finest, if not *the* finest in the United States.

As might be expected from the nature of the Society and its work, the greater number of its books are devoted to Horticulture and Agriculture, departments in which it is unexcelled; but, recognizing the importance of botanical knowledge to the intelligent cultivator, this department has been wisely and generously fostered—many rare and valuable works having been purchased from time to time—until at present full twenty-five per cent. of the whole number of volumes is devoted to Botany. Many works not strictly botanical might be added to the list, increasing the proportion to nearly one-third. Of this latter class are many valuable works of a semi-horticultural and botanical character, on the culture of orchidaceous plants, and which are not included in the present estimate.

The number of books in the library at the present time exceeds 4,000 volumes. As stated by Mr. Manning, in the History of the Society, the number at the close of the year 1878 was 3,400 books and 600 pamphlets, but this number has been since increased by some valuable additions.

All the current text-books on botany—including some old and rare editions long out of print—are to be found upon the library shelves. The names of Gray, Torrey, Chapman, Bigelow, Beck, Darby, Wood, Eaton, Nuttall, Barton, Balfour, Hooker, Greville, Benthams, Henfrey, Harvey, Berkeley, Thornton, Cooke, Sachs, Thomes, Prantl, Dresser and Bessey are sufficient to indicate the character of this section.

Of the more important works may be mentioned: Alph. de Candolle's 'Laws of Botanical Nomenclature,' 'Prodromus Systematis,' 'Collection de Mémoires,' etc.; A. Ph. de Candolle's 'Géographie Botanique'; A. and C. de Candolle's 'Monographiae Phanerogamarum'; Linnaeus' 'Systema Plantarum,' 'Species Plantarum,' etc.; Le Maout and Decaisne's 'Traité Général de Botanique' (Mrs. Hooker's translation); E. St. Pierre de Germain's 'Dictionnaire de Botanique'; Loudon's 'Hortus Britannicus'; Plumier's 'Plantes de l'Amérique'; Draakenstein's 'Hortus Indicus Malabaricus'; Gmelin's 'Flora Siberica'; Grisebach's 'Plantae Wrightianae'; Batsch's 'Genera Plantarum'; Robert Brown's 'Flora Novae Hollandiae' (London ed. suppressed by the author); 'Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnæan Society'; Curtis' 'Botanical Magazine'; 'Flora Londinensis'; Sowerby's 'English Botany,' first and second editions, etc., etc., while the names of Braun, Steudel, Koch, Fries, Siebold, Lemaire, L'Heritier, Walpers, Thunberg, Michaux, etc., suggest other works of great importance and value.

Cryptogamic botany has not been overlooked, and the favor accorded to fern books, even by those who are not specially interested in the subject of which these treat, is particularly noticeable here,

where pteridologists and pteridophiles alike will find ample material to aid them in their studies. Hooker's (and Bauer's) 'Genera Filicum,' 'Icones Filicum,' 'Century of Ferns,' 'Species Filicum,' 'Synopsis Filicum' (editions 1868-74), 'Filices Exoticae,' etc.; Smith's 'Historia Filicum' and 'British and Foreign Ferns'; Moore's 'Nature-Printed Ferns' (octavo and folio editions); Lowe's 'New and Rare Ferns, etc.; Newman's 'British Ferns'; Sowerby's, Johnson's, Anne Pratt's and Heath's fern books; Presl's 'Pteridographia'; Kunzius' 'Index Filicum'; Swartz's 'Synopsis Filicum'; besides many valuable papers scattered through other works are here, along with Eaton, Robinson, Williamson and the present writer, to represent our American fern literature.

In the mosses and other lower cryptogamia, we have Sullivant's 'Mosses of Eastern North America,' etc.; Berkeley's 'British Mosses'; Schimper's 'Bryologia Europaea'; Harvey's 'Nereis Australis,' 'Nereis Boreali-Americana,' 'Phycologia Australis,' 'Phycologia Britannica,' etc.; with many other invaluable works, by Bischoff, Fée, Agardh, Schweinitz, Dillenius, Acharius, Greville, Hoffman, Eschweiler, Kutzing, Pringsheim, Thuret, Leighton, Tuckerman, etc., etc.

It is not possible in a notice of this kind to do more than indicate the character of the whole by the selection of a few; and an examination of the library itself, or of its catalogue, will alone show its value and importance to botanists. In 1869 ex-President Josiah Stickney bequeathed to the Society the income from \$12,000 for thirty years, \$700 of which are devoted annually to the purchase of books. With this means—termed the "Stickney Fund"—at its disposal, and with such additional sums as the Society may appropriate from time to time, the Library Committee is able to take advantage of every opportunity to procure desirable works; but as these are generally expensive, the number of books added yearly is limited. The library has received many additions by donations from various sources, the most important accession being that of the extensive collection of books bequeathed by Rev. John Lewis Russell, of Salem, who for many years was professor of botany and horticultural physiology to the Society. Prof. Russell's private library was especially rich in works on cryptogamic botany—embracing many invaluable papers, pamphlets and local catalogues, all of which came into the possession of the Society soon after his death, forming an enduring monument to the memory of a fine botanist and a beloved clergyman.

The library is open for reference at all times, and the genial Librarian is ever ready and pleased to assist strangers in finding such works as they may wish to consult.

2. *The Herbaria.*—The Society's herbaria consist of several distinct collections of plants from different sources, but the special collection of North American Ferns to which the Torrey BULLETIN gave the name of "Davenport Herbarium" is the only one generally known. In May, 1857, the Society received a collection of fifty species of plants from Crete, presented by Dr. Giuseppe Monarchini, U. S. Consul to the Island of Crete, and a corresponding member of the Society.

In August of the same year, "A lady in Roxbury" (Mass.) presented a small collection of flowering-plants and grasses. In 1856, Mrs. Isaac Clements, of Mechanicsville, Saratoga Co., N. Y., presented a collection of native plants, for which she was awarded the Society's Silver Medal.

In 1864, the daughter of Dennis Murray (then deceased, but a former member of the Society, a frequent exhibitor of native plants and an excellent botanist) presented a collection of one hundred and twenty-five species of native flowering-plants, collected near Boston; eighty species of vascular cryptogams from America and Great Britain; and sixty species of native and introduced grasses. There is also a collection of thirty species of native and garden-plants from an unknown source.

In June, 1875, Mr. George E. Davenport presented the collection of American ferns now everywhere known as the "Davenport Herbarium." At present writing there remain no actual *desiderata* except root-specimens of *Cheilanthes leucopoda* and *Pellaea aspera*, and native specimens of *Pellaea ternifolia* and *Adiantum tricholepis*; but these are deficiencies that cannot remain long unsupplied if we consider how many ferns, long regarded as rare and difficult to obtain, have been placed within the reach of all through the exertions of recent collectors. The collection now contains over 600 mounted sheets representing 31 genera, 149 species as here recognized (or 151 by Prof. Eaton's Fern List), and some twenty-two or twenty-three hundred specimens. Many sheets of other vascular cryptogams have been mounted and are nearly ready to add to the herbarium.

Besides these collections, there is a small one of ferns from Pulney Hills, Southern India, presented in 1878 or '79 by Mrs. Van Brunt.

Boston, Feb. 1881.

G. E. D.

§ 26. **A *Silene* with Pentamerous Ovary.**—The symmetry in the flower of the genus *Silene* is destroyed by the suppression of two carpels in the gynoeceium (sepals 5, petals 5, stamens 2x5, pistils 3). In a specimen of *Silene Pennsylvanica*, Michx. I have detected a well-developed ovary formed of *five* carpels, which, had they been permitted to ripen, would certainly have opened by ten teeth. This pod shows, if nothing else, how closely *Silene* and *Lychnis* are related; so closely, in fact, that if such a case as this were of frequent occurrence there would be little left to distinguish the two genera.

Hoboken, Feb., 1881.

JOSEPH SCHRENK.

§ 27. **The Preparation of Fleshy Pileate Fungi for the Herbarium.***—For all preparations of fungi, with the exception of those of spores, I use, as a supporting material, paper coated with gelatine, and which I shall call "gelatine-paper." This is prepared by dis-

*G. Herpell in *Verhandl. des naturhistorisch. Vereins der preuss. Rheinlande u. Westfalens*, 1880.

I omit the author's preliminary remarks on collecting fungi, and will merely state that he recommends that none but good characteristic specimens should be taken, and that these should be as perfect as possible—snail and worm-eaten and water-soaked individuals being rejected.—W. R. G.